

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 01135 251318Z

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ACTION OS-03

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R 250900Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0880

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS COLOMBO 1135

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OVERSEA CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

SUBJ: OVERSEA CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

ISLAMABAD FOR DR. GORDON PARSONS

1. EMBASSY IS PLEASED TO REPORT THAT OVERSEA CHILDREN'S SCHOOL (OCS) NOW HAS PRIVILEGES FROM GSL WHICH WILL ALLOW SCHOOL TO RECRUIT HEADMASTER FOR FALL 1974 TERM. IN FEBRUARY, EMBASSY APPROACHED MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER, DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, WHO AGREED TO ASK GSL TO RECONSIDER ITS JECTION OF INCOME TAX EXEMPTION FOR AN EXPATRIATE HEADMASTER AND TWO TEACHERS. FINANCE MINISTER INFORMED DEAN IN LETTER DATED APRIL 17 THAT FINANCE MINISTER HAS AGREED GAZETTE OCS AS APPROVED "INSTITUTION" UNDER SECTION 3(3)(F) OF THE INLAND REVENUE AMENDMENT LAW NO. 1 OF 1974. HOWEVER, UNDER THIS PROVISION, MINISTER OF FINANCE WILL EXEMPT ONLY HEADMASTER AND NOT OTHER TEACHERS.

2. OCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET APRIL 23 TO CONSIDER MATTER AND DECIDED THAT, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, BOARD WOULD ACCEPT SITUATION AND NOW TRY RECRUIT HEADMASTER. MEMBER OF BOARD, WHO ON LEAVE IN LONDON, WILL INVESTIGATE AVAILABILITY OF BRITISH HEADMASTER WITH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE AND, PREFERABLY, SOME TRAINING IN UNITED STATES. ATTEMPT WILL ALSO BE MADE TO FIND HEADMASTER WHOSE WIFE IS TEACHER. EMBASSY AND BOARD WILL DISCUSS AMERICAN CANDIDATES WITH DR. PARSONS.

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PAGE 02 COLOMB 01135 251318Z

3. SCHOOL NOW EMPLOYING TWO AMERICAN TEACHERS, PAID OUT

OF STATE DEPARTMENT GRANT, WHOSE HUSBANDS ARE SERVING IN SRI LANKA. IN SCHOOL YEAR 73-74 THESE TEACHERS, EMPLOYED AT ANNUAL SALARY OF \$7,500, WILL USE UP FY74 STATE DEPARTMENT GRANT OF 10,000.

4. EMBASSY NOTES THAT, THUS FAR, OUR GRANT FOR SCHOOL YEAR 74-75 IS AUTHORIZED ONLY IN AMOUNT OF \$8,000 FOR BOOKS AND SUPPLIES. REQUEST DEPARTMENT GIVE IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION TO APPROVING GRANT IN REQUESTED AMOUNT OF \$17,000 TO ALLOW SCHOOL TO CONTINUE EMPLOY THESE TWO TEACHERS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 74-75. SALARY OF NEW HEADMASTER AND WIFE WILL COME FROM INCREASE IN TUITION, PROBABLY BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 74. WILL DISCUSS SITUATION WITH DR. PARSONS WHEN HE ARRIVES COLOMBO MAY 4.

5. EMBASSY MOST PLEASED WITH MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH ON TAX EXEMPTION, ALTHOUGH NOT SATISFIED BY APPLICABILITY ONLY TO HEADMASTER. IN RESPONSE TO FINANCE MINISTER, DEAN OF CORPS WILL STRESS THAT SOME TIME IN FUTURE SCHOOL MAY WISH REOPEN SUBJECT OF ADDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS.
VAN HOLLEN

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